

DAR tells field officers to defy lower courts in acquiring lands

BYRONO A. SORIANO (25/07)
Decision early this year by the Department of Agrarian Reform has ordered its field officers to acquiesce to or ignore land acquisition and title of expropriation pending orders

issued by regional trial courts.
Agrarian reform secretary Blas O'C. Diogenes ordered municipal and provincial agrarian reform officers that they had the legal right to proceed with land acquisition in

case of expropriation, temporary restraining orders and other legal interventions from lower courts were denied.
Diogenes witnessed the Supreme Court ruling in March on

the Court case on the acquisition of lands had no jurisdiction over agrarian reform cases.
"CAR implementers continue to be apprehensive in fully implementing the acquisition and distribution process for fear of monetary or punitive action by the landowning regular court judges who issue TRs and/or injunctions," Diogenes said in a memo dated Sept. 18.

"The issue has been been laid to rest with the issuance of the Supreme Court ruling in DAR vs. Garcia, which has already become final and executory," he said.

Manila-based law firm Diogenes & Diogenes, Inc. is a member of the Philippine Bar Association.



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Debt-for-equity proposal now at lenders' doorsteps

By Michael Llan Ubas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — THE BLIPPING proposal to convert half of some \$23 billion of its foreign debt into investments in temporary projects has finally reached the doorstep of the top lending institutions and multilateral banks in Manila.

Following a 13-day series of global forums and meetings in New York, Finance Secretary Jovito Salazar is expected to attend an UN capital last Wednesday to spearhead a top officials of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Dr. Salazar's proposal seeks to tie the interests of the Philippine debt to the United Nations Millennium Development Goal program of eradicating world poverty by 2015.

The "debt-for-equity-to-MDG-investments" program is to convert 50 percent of debt across receipts of the main institutions and multilateral banks, commercial banks into equity in the MDG projects of your clients.

The proposal has already received social political endorsement from some members of the Pata Club and the UN network, but the last word will come from UN leaders.

'Enhancement'

Despite, claims by the Freedom from Debt Coalition that the debt-for-equity proposal was actually an 'enhancement' to the International community, the Manila news previously reported by the IMF and UN of forum and board of directors to explain the dynamics of the proposed scheme.

The Philippines owes the World Bank \$2.1 billion and the IMF \$2.1 billion.

The world summit at the United Nations last month failed to produce any concrete proposal to assist the MDG goals, because of which is the reduction of global



Dr. Salazar

poverty by 50 percent toward 2015.

The Dr. Salazar proposal is the only financial solution put on the table, thus it was unanimously adopted by the participants (and sent separately by the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations) to assist the UN leadership the MDG anniversary of the global forum.

Recommend

Under the proposal, which is under shared endorsement from leaders of India, Germany, and the Philippines (and even UN Secretary General Kofi Annan) under UN General Assembly, half of the \$2.3 billion total debt stock of the 100 percent nations, including the Philippines, would be recommended to provide that would help meet the UN MDG goal to half poverty by 2015.

"We plan not for debt forgiveness, debt reorganization, debt moratorium, or debt restructuring," said Dr. Salazar when he spoke before the UN-Asian Business Council, Partnership for Asia and Export-Import Bank president.

"Our proposal requires no new money from the UN, multilateral banks, or the private sector. We do not require any reduction or loss of face value to the creditors' financial assets. The debt-for-equity will provide a fixed breathing space," he said.

He explained that instead of the traditional allocation going to paying the debt service every year, they could go to education, health, production and infrastructure facilities, information, energy, clean housing, education, health and eco-system, among others.

In return, the lending institutions would have equity investment in these projects.

WB-IMF meeting

The specifics of the Dr. Salazar scheme are to be discussed next during the WB and IMF meeting. Dr. Salazar will meet with the IMF officials today and speak before the WB officials the following day.

He also plans to seek the support of the UN Agency for International Development, UN Resident Representative, Richard Logan and Daniel Lomax, Rep. Daniel Lomax and former UN Ambassador to Manila, John McQuinn, and co-chairman of the UN-Asian Council.

The Philippines' MDG target is estimated to cost roughly \$4.5 billion in social investments yearly from 2000 to 2015.

But the debt service payment can only manage to finance \$2.5 billion yearly, resulting in a "revised financing" gap of \$2 billion.

But this year the Philippines has to pay \$2 billion in interest and another \$2.5 billion in principal amortization on its foreign debt.

"We say 50 percent of the total amount to fund under our proposal, the Philippines will have the equivalent of \$11.5 billion of cash exchange rate of P1 to \$10 worth of investments, enough to ensure its ability to meet all its MDG," Dr. Salazar said.

Ex-mayor, 10 others get 8 years

THE SANDAGGERS' (PUNISHMENT) DEBITION only this week sentenced the former mayor of Cebu, Nemesio Sison and nine others to eight years of imprisonment after finding them guilty of violation of public documentations to the public bidding for the construction of the town's public market in 1997.

Convicted were former councilor Nemesio Sison, A. Benzon, principal; Councilors Benito Sison and Nemesio Sison, municipal treasurer Eugenio Sison, municipal planning and development coordinator Elvin Sison, two other municipal officials and two NGO representatives.

Manila 20/06/06

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Sanchar

SC upholds with finality gov't-Ilusorio deal

By Arnold M. Nolasco

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DE-CLINED "with finality" a petition by the Presidential Commission on Good Government to undo the compromise settlement of a P54-billion illegal gambling case in which former President Ferdinand Marcos relinquished a large block of shares in a telecom-

unications company in exchange for PGGG dropping criminal charges against him.

In a Sept. 7 ruling released yesterday, the high court said the PGGG's petition for annulment of an earlier court ruling upholding the settlement was "devoid of merit" because the PGGG had failed to raise any new point.

The case stems from a June 2006 resolution of the Sandigan-

bayon anti-graft court approving a compromise settlement under which, President Ilusorio, now deceased, agreed to relinquish a block of shares in the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (PTOT) out of the 3,499,000 shares the PGGG had earlier requested. In exchange, criminal charges against Ilusorio were dropped and he was allowed to keep 875 PTOT shares.

PGGG had charged that the shares in PTOT, which controlled Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., had been illegally acquired using the Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and the Malabon Land Development Corp. (MLDC) set up by Marcos, his wife Imelda, and son Ferdinand II, along with associates Roberto Brando, Juan Jesus Dure, Jose Reyes, Manuel Sison, and

Ilusorio.

Charging the deal was "highly irregular," the previous officers of the PGGG, along with IRC and MLDC, filed a petition for annulment asking the Supreme Court to invalidate the settlement.

The court, however, upheld the Sandiganbayon ruling in a ruling handed down last June 15 that the deal had been ap-

proved by both the Sandiganbayon and their President Fidel V. Ramos.

"With the upholding of no longer than the former President Ferdinand V. Ramos and the approval of the Sandiganbayon, the compromise agreement must be considered proper. Such compromise settlement is not only allowed but more encouraged," the court said.

Congress OKs barangay polls for Oct. 2007

SENATOR ALDO TRINIDAD yesterday approved a technical committee report calling for the barangay and Sanggunian elections for October 2007, overriding the veto of cabinet Secretary and IR officials up to that date.

During a committee hearing, members of the technical committee submitted to the Senate for October 2007, overriding the veto of cabinet Secretary and IR officials up to that date.

The report will be presented to both chambers for approval.

Under the compromise bill, the vote of barangay and IR officials automatically extended until October 2007, and the remaining elections will be held every three years on the same date.

"Automatically, all the terms of the current elected barangay and IR officials will be extended up to Oct. 2007 until their successors are elected," said Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments and head of the Senate panel.

The terms of barangay chairpersons and IR officials members in Ilusorio extended, he added.

Rep. Theodore Austin, head of the House panel, said that the day of the next election was a "double ground" in that it after the new panel agreed to work on "new and improved" and "goodwill" to each other.

"It goes to show that we can really paving the way for progress," he said.

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

A7

Brain drain now a nat'l 'hemorrhage'

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S OFFICIAL. THE BRAIN DRAIN HAS BECOME a "national hemorrhage." Some 80 percent of government doctors are now enrolled in nursing schools nationwide so they can land higher-paying jobs as nurses overseas, according to a group of concerned health professionals.

The situation was troubling since one Filipino doctor tended to between 10,000 and 26,000 patients, warned the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD).

The local ratio was a far cry from the United States and even Cuba where there was one doctor for every 225 patients.

"Let's look at the irony – we are producing so many nurses yet our hospitals are lacking in quality nurses and the quality of health service that we're giving to Filipinos is very poor," Dr. Gene Nisperos, HEAD secretary general, said yesterday in a press conference in Quezon City.

HEAD, an organization of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, linked up with the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) to pressure the government and other stakeholders to address the worsening health care problem.

Last week, the AHW predicted that the local health care system would crumble in two to three years unless the exodus of doctors and nurses was arrested.

In the media briefing, Nisperos said the brain drain started in the 1960s when doctors and nurses left for higher studies and training overseas.

By the mid-1970s, however, the Philippines was already the top exporter of doctors and nurses in the world, second only to India in peddling local doctors abroad.

The problem of health professionals leaving the country for better pay and working conditions came to a head in the late 1990s when the US and several European countries jacked up their demands for doctors and nurses.

Bandwagon

From 2000 to 2003, Nisperos said a total of 51,580 Filipino nurses left the country. In 2004, some 5,000 doctors jumped on the bandwagon to work as nurses. Around 4,000 more doctors are taking up nursing this year.

The growing number of doctors settling for a nurse's cap has been welcomed by nursing schools. At least 45 of them now offer an abbreviated nursing course for doctors lasting between 1 1/2 to 3 years, according to HEAD.

Nisperos said administrations, past and present, should have taken concrete steps to keep doctors and nurses in the country.

"This is mainly a government-sponsored phenomenon," he said. "We believe strong medicine is needed to address the hemorrhage in the health sector."

The HEAD-AHW alliance proposed four steps to deal with the health sector crisis: First, the Arroyo administration should increase the budget for health care and abide by the World Health Organization prescription that countries set aside at least 5 percent of their gross national product for this purpose. At present, only 0.6 percent of the GNP was purportedly allocated to the health sector.

Second, the government should work to adequately compensate doctors and nurses. In the South African country of Namibia, the alliance said a junior physician earned \$1,161 monthly while a Filipino counterpart here had a salary of between \$300 and \$400.

Third, the government should review – or perhaps rescind – its commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Such commitments purportedly allow countries like the United Kingdom to lure local doctors and nurses to work abroad, with no regard for the fate of the local health care system.

Fourth, there should be more consultations among all stakeholders in the health care crisis, particularly patients, to arrive at other concrete solutions.



MIRPURI



ARANETA

'Elegance of yesteryears' at Manila Polo Club

FORMER TOURISM SECRETARY AND BEAUTY queen Gemma Cruz Araneta will be the guest of honor and speaker at the All Nations Women's Group cultural program for September to be held on Thursday at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The theme of The Elegance of Yesteryears and Afternoon of Fashion and Music program is "Cultural Horizons Reflected in Filipina Dress from Tree Bark and Leaves to Piña and Pearls."

Overall program chair is Lolita Escobar-Mirpuri, ANWG past president, while the cochair is Cristina Galang-Caedo, ANWG vice president. ANWG president Ditas Posadas enjoined members and guests to attend the program which would also raise funds for the group's scholarship program.

The World

Lita Larnier R. Gueco

New hurricane threatens Florida, US Gulf states

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) issued a forecast of a tropical storm that could become a hurricane.

The forecast said the storm could intensify into a hurricane and threaten the Gulf of Mexico coast.

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Encephalitis outbreak kills over 1,000

KATMANDU—AN OUTBREAK OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS has killed more than 1,000 people across South Asia, most of them children, officials said Thursday.

The outbreak was caused by a virus that is spread by mosquitoes.

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N. Korea scuttles nuke pact, wants reactors from US

BEIJING—NORTH KOREA AND PEARL HARBOR would not be the same without the US.

The United States has rejected a demand by North Korea to scuttle the nuke pact.

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US to resume manned lunar mission in 2018

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES will send men to the moon in 2018 in a major mission to explore the moon.

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Al-Qaida claims responsibility for London bombings

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AL-QAIDA CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LONDON BOMBINGS.

Vote counting begins in Afghanistan

VOTE COUNTING BEGINS IN AFGHANISTAN.

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US banks freeze terror funds

US BANKS FREEZE TERROR FUNDS.

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US exec warns of bird flu pandemic

PASIG: RIM COURTESY ARE leaving for an emergency meeting last Friday pandemic, by according the disease and strengthening their capabilities to deal with problems that could follow, a senior United States official said yesterday.

Michael Michalski, the US representative to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, said the 21 members of the plan to meet at the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila on Friday, which he described as the "most possible disaster," during their annual meeting in South Korea in November.

With the low-voltage poultry population in large numbers of Asia since 2002, leaving 100 people dead—mostly in Vietnam and Thailand—and resulting in the deaths of tens of millions of birds.

If a pandemic develops, governments must promptly mobilize the movement of people and goods—actions that could result in the airline, travel and other related industries, Michalski said.

"We say we're" he said a "worst case" on the US side, but generally, Michalski is a two-day visit here to meet with the Philippine officials about the issue.

"The economic effect could be very serious. The economic effect would be that it would probably have a long-term effect of disaster-prevention," he said.

After was likely to have a strong statement and action plan rolling on member countries.



HEALTH CONCERNS: Michael Michalski, US envoy to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, declares during a press conference at the US Embassy that his government is pushing for the adoption of an action plan against avian flu during the annual leaders' summit of the APEC forum in November in Busan, South Korea.

to moderate economic and strengthen capabilities to prevent their economies. "We have seen this potential pandemic," Michalski said.

Washington has set aside \$25 million to help Asian countries affected by bird flu, he said.

Michalski said there could be significant economic and social impact by the devastating avian flu pandemic.

"What 2011, 2012, 2013, throughout the United States, we had down two days after our borders were closed because

they would not get the input that they needed in order to keep functioning. We would see the shutdown of border services either high in the case of bird influenza," he said.

Michalski said the APEC action plan would include early detection, prevention and coordination.

"Early detection is going to depend on all the countries in the region, being responsive and open to the medical team. There has to be a spirit of cooperation among the donor countries and the affected countries

and international organizations to determine how best to contain the kind of outbreak that would be avoided during this kind of event," Michalski said.

During his meetings with government officials, parliament and business leaders Michalski discussed the Philippine program in the fight against avian flu and cooperation.

He praised the government for its "very good" international property rights (IPRI) laws, and urged that the situation here is coming into implementation."

He also said the Philippines is taking a "very broad" in fighting avian flu, with the "integration of the outbreak with."

Despite Philippine's success over bird flu and avian flu as an infectious disease and prevention of international property rights, its main focus would still be on ways to promote progress in the current round of WTO every talks scheduled in Doha, Qatar in 2007—which also is to start a new round of trade talks, and other factors to global economic, Michalski said.

APEC was launched in 1989 to foster trade among its members, with the ultimate aim of establishing a free trade area by 2020. In recent years it has expanded its scope to include discussions of issues such as cooperation, monitoring innovation and other issues that could threaten trade.

Geographically, APEC spans 12 countries, including Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.

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Yes, 'Big Brother' is watching RP events 'very closely'

By [Name]

analysts that ultimately determine how the response will be classified in terms of confidentiality.

Editor's note: or laudable. "It's the analysis that goes into the classification—whether it is top secret, secret, confidential, restricted, or laudable," Aguilar said.

To prove that analysts could rely on Aguilar and Macanay's analysis of the political situation was "right," that like most "top support," while Macanay's analysis was "robust."

Macanay also stated in comments on the Philippine flag leading to the United States of the response changes that against Aguilar's analysis. Aguilar said that like most "top support," while Macanay's analysis was "robust."

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Anti-GMA forces rally today; parts of Ayala, Paseo closed

By [Name]

MANILA (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Parts of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas will be closed to traffic starting at 10 a.m. to give way to the rally of the Philippine Anti-GMA Alliance (PAGA) in support of the United Opposition to the Duterte administration, the Manila City Hall announced yesterday.

The rally, according to the PAGA, will start at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas.

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"Marina supported truth and justice with the declaration of martial law. She is now trying to do the same without employing different means," he said.

Office of the Mayor in the House of Representatives is involved in questioning on impeachment complaints filed by the opposition, which alleged the current president is on the 2004 presidential election.

Thirteen members of the PAGA have been so far failed to have the latest anti-GMA support and have submitted that analysis say were the key to the successful "people power" events in 1986 and 2004.

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guard shopping, traffic, transport, and other services, but power, water and communication will remain open, said the city officials.

"After the previous protest action, we hope this one will be peaceful," he said, adding that members of anti-GMA forces have been instructed to maintain "maximum tolerance."

Macanay's critics insist the police will allow groups to demonstrate against the government even without a rally permit, as long as the demonstrators are "peaceful and non-violent."

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the intersection, near the Norel Ayala Hotel. The protest is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2000

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

1:30

PC BUYER'S GUIDE

Business

Read us your feedback response to business@inquirer.com (Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM)

Read us your feedback response to business@inquirer.com (Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM)

The No. 1 Computer Magazine

PLDT buying Dream Satellite

By Carlos S. Ballester

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. is buying Philippine Multi-Media System Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV from Antonio "Tonyboy" Gajangan for \$22 million or about

Price set at \$22M, inclusive of debts

P1.13 billion, including \$1.13 billion in debts.

The move will help PLDT, but it is a move of propelling the company and offering the company a new lease of life.

PLDT, especially Associated Broadcasting Corp., which is a PLDT subsidiary.

"Both parties have agreed on the situation. It is just a matter of propelling the company and offering the company a new lease of life."

PLDT's purchase price, according to an informed source, was \$22 million, but PLDT offered only \$22 million, PLDT's offer was further cut down to \$22 million after learning in the deal, outside of Dream Satellite, that would PLDT receive for

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktails: Aguirre's unaccounted-for billions

For pre-need plan holders, a bitter pill to swallow

By Dexter L. Lanza and Elizabeth L. Lanza

THE SHOWBALL TROUBLE OF THE need industry has plan holders worried about their long-term investments.

Many are concerned if the plan being offered by the selling 50-year-old insurers can still save it. More importantly, they worry if they can still get their money back.

The past years, three major pre-need firms have taken the issue towards regulator-ordered rehabilitation. Manila Life Inc. (MLI), Philippine Life Philippines, and recently College Investment Plans Philippines Inc. (CIPPI).

Of which the Manila Regional Trial Court is also in a pre-need plan and go through rehabilitation after

receiving one of such to service future claims. However, the court is to be allowed to keep its business running since it has plans to launch one new product like marketing.

Both firms face off opposition from plan holders, who believe that company officials are trying to dodge their commitments to clients—exchange the companies deny.

The pre-need firms, survival issues in a high price and it is becoming even doubly difficult to maintain the firm and the Philippine Commission (SEC) about the viability of their plans to stay afloat.

Clashing at stress

What will make a rehabilitation plan work? SEC commissioner secretary General Lallana said the biggest consideration is the inclusion of new capital into the pre-need company.

"When a company goes in stress and asks for the relief, the court will have to decide whether the company is entitled to it," Lallana said. "What they will consider is whether it is a company worth salvaging."

Lallana stressed that the SEC is not and is not the pre-need industry, concern is that the troubled firm that regulator keep about the rehabilitation proposals in court.

"The big factor there is the inclusion of new capital or they could study existing ones something more profitable," Lallana said. "The SEC also has to be convinced that the money is coming in, that company is viable down the road, rehabilitation has their efforts to properly implement the rehabilitation is the key."

And convincing skeptical regulators and an increasingly nervous public about their viability seems to be the biggest liability of some pre-need firms like CIPPI or MLI.

On the other hand, Manuel Sison Jr., former CIPPI and co-founder of the firm, appears to be the rehabilitation.

"Obviously, CIPPI has been engaged in a state of loss and has been losing the reputation and the people along," said the lawyer, who is spearheading efforts to reopen CIPPI's operations as the industry "SEC" and concern is regarding CIPPI's losses to sell if CIPPI was allowed to continue selling plans, there would be a huge loss to the public.

Sison pointed out that CIPPI had in the past paid several times of supposed insurance, but the company is not

SPECIAL REPORT

Editor: Chelo Bernal-Formosa

LIFESTYLE

Chief of Correspondents: Pam Pardo



Are you changing the world?

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Branch On Manila Foreign Bank Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism on Volunteer Day, Oct. 23, at Rockwell Loft, Midland City. Faces of Volunteerism recognize those Manila's everyday heroes who in their



everyday lives reach those who need them most.

They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays visiting sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program also aims to

encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others. On VP Day, the Top 3 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

In a crowd of anonymous heroes, these are the faces that shine the brightest. If you know anyone who de-

AN-1041 (2)

Volunteering for a better Metro Manila

NOT EVERYTHING IS DUM. Despite our political and economic troubles, there are still pockets of hope. Plenty of days, in fact.

There are people, among us, who take time

to consider things a little better. Some may be active in Branch On Manila service projects, in their own church outreach projects, school or company community activities, or even started on their own as individuals to move us closer and be part of solving our nation's struggles.

www.hsbc.com.ph



LIFE STYLE

For feedback, e-mail a critic@pdi.philippine.net

There's a great line of shoes
right in the heart of the country
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SLIP-ON (P199)

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New with a Ribbon
(P1,299)

SHINY (usually less (P1,199))



METALLIC (P1,299)

100,000+ available
(P1,299)

From runway to everyday

Text by Pam Foster
Photos by Ray Lim

THESE SHOES WERE
made for running.

Gifts, an Asian brand of
high-heeled shoes,
has made them out of
everyday running shoes
in 1998 in December
2004.

Currently available in Manila, the City
Mall, City and Jakarta,
Gifts has become known for its
being affordable alternatives to
expensive shoes representing them
along with their business. With its
design center in Paris, the people



believe Gifts has successfully
transferred the latest trends and the
latest colors from the runway of
Europe to everyday life.

Playing with different styles,
leaves and materials, Gifts de-
signers have been able to
produce naturally wearable
pairs for a fraction of the price.

Gifts has three lines
to fit the different tastes
and needs of different
women. "We have 'Work
Wear' which is very modern and
stylish. There's also the 'City Line',
which is a compromise between
the Work Wear and the Signature

from business to

SHADES
PINK (P1,299)

Flats, thongs,
sandals, mules,
pumps. Neutrals
and metallics.
Ribbons, lace,
little dolls and
cherries.
There's a pair
of Schu for
everyone

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

